

## **“What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit” Part 6 - 1 Corinthians 12:18-26 – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- Today's teaching will be part six of a series I've titled, "What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit."
- What we're seeing in this chapter up to this point is the importance of both the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well.
- In the text that we have before us today, the Apostle Paul is going to stress the importance of every part of the body of Christ.

### **6. We need each other's gifting and calling (Verses 18-21)**

- v18 Paul says that, it is God, Who in fact has placed every one of the parts in the body of Christ, just as He wanted them to be.
- v19 He then goes on to ask the rhetorical question of, if they were all one part of the body, then where would the body be?
- v20-21 He says the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you and so too the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

- What Paul is saying is God has uniquely called and positioned each and every one of us in the body of Christ as He deems fit.
- As such, I cannot say to another part of the body, "I don't need you," by virtue of the fact that each part has a different purpose.
- The fact of the matter is the eye needs the hand and the hand needs the feet as each are equally important to the whole body.

### **7. The parts that seem weaker are indispensable (Verses 22-26)**

- v22 Paul says that contrary to a part of the body saying I don't need you, it's the parts that seem weaker that are indispensable.
- v23-24 We treat the less honorable with honor, unpresentable with modesty while presentable ones have no special treatment.
- v25-26 He says God gives greater honor to the parts that lacked it and that if one part suffers all suffer but if honored all rejoice.

To illustrate this, I'd like to share with you the true story of a famous coach by the name of John Wooden, who, as head coach at UCLA won ten NCAA national championships in a 12-year period, including an unprecedented seven in a row. Within this period, his teams won a men's basketball-record 88 consecutive games. Wooden's streak of seven consecutive NCAA Championships is even more remarkable and impressive because to this day no other coach or school has won the tournament more than two consecutive years. Also, Wooden was named national coach of the year six times. What's so fascinating about Coach Wooden is the very first thing he taught his players to do, which included the likes of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (aka Lew Alcindor) and Bill Walton. The very first lesson was how to put on shoes and socks. At a June 13, 2008, event honoring John Wooden ...raising money for pediatric cancer research at UCLA, Coach Wooden had an opportunity to demonstrate his famed socks-and-shoes lesson. One of Wooden's most famous players, Bill Walton, speaking by remote video to the crowd ...in downtown Los Angeles, introduced the coach and recalled his first days at UCLA on the basketball team. Walton related the shock that he and other new players felt when the first thing Wooden did was sit them down and teach them how to put on their shoes and socks. Doing this properly, Walton said, was the initial lesson for "everything we would need to know for the rest of our lives." Following Walton's introduction, Coach Wooden came out on stage holding a box with athletic shoes and socks, bringing with him 12-year-old Robert, who was introduced as having tackled cancer at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. There was much good-natured laughter as Wooden gave Robert the socks-and-shoes instructions. "You know, basketball is a game that's played on a hardwood floor," Wooden said. "And to be good, you have to ... change your direction, change your pace. That's hard on your feet. Your feet are very important. ...The coach then took a black athletic sock and started to put it on Robert's foot, asking the boy to complete the task. Wooden said, "Now pull it up in the back, pull it up real good, real strong. Now run your hand around the little toe area ... make sure there are no wrinkles and then pull it back up. Check the heel area. We don't want any sign of a wrinkle about it ... The wrinkle will be sure you get blisters, and those blisters are going to make you lose playing time, and if you're good enough, your loss of playing time might get the coach fired." To audience laughter, Wooden pulled out an athletic shoe. "Now put it in wide, now pull it up," he told Robert. "Now don't grab these lines up here, go down, eyelet by eyelet ... each one, that's it. Now pull it in there ... Tie it like this..." The coach teased Robert gently as he explained why this was so important. "There's always a danger of becoming untied when you are playing," he said. "If they become untied, I may have to take you out of the game — practice, I may have to take you out. Miss practice, you're going to miss playing time and not only that, it will irritate me a little too." The coach talked Robert through double-tying his shoelaces so they wouldn't come undone. Then he talked him through taking the shoes off by untying the strings, eyelet by eyelet. "You gonna remember that?" Wooden asked Robert. "I hope you never get any blisters."

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/wooden-shoes-and-socks-84177>

- Would to God that we in the body of Christ do not get any blisters, as it were, especially on members who are called to be feet.
- You'll forgive my overstating the use of this metaphor, but I think we do err greatly when don't care for those parts of the body.
- To only care for and serve myself by not contributing anything to the rest of the body is to feed and grow as cancer on the body.
- I would submit that just as a body is healthy when it functions in this way physically so too is the body healthy as well spiritually.
- Conversely, just as a body is unhealthy when it does not function in this way physically, so too is the body unhealthy spiritually.
- Sadly, churches with quarrels and division in the body are evidence of this dynamic, which is why Paul mentions it in verse 25.

Charles Spurgeon, "I want every member of this church to be a servant. We do not want any drones. If there are any of you who want to eat and drink, and do nothing, there are plenty of places elsewhere, where you can do it; there are empty pews about in abundance; go and fill them, for we do not want you. Every Christian who is not a bee is a wasp. The most quarrelsome persons are the most useless, and they who are the most happy are peaceable, are generally those who are doing most for Christ."